

Appln. No.: 09/316,795

Amdt. Dat d April 14, 2004

Reply to Office Action dated March 9, 2004

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (currently amended) A method for forwarding mail by a post that is addressed to a recipient at a virtual post office box to be delivered directly to a recipient without the recipient going to the post, said method comprises the steps of:

receiving recipient's name and recipient's desired delivery address;

assigning a virtual post office box identification for individual recipients;

relating recipient's virtual post office box with the desired delivery address of the recipients;

delivering to recipients their assigned virtual post office box's identification;

placing virtual post office boxes on mail;

reading mail to capture virtual post office box identification, when present;

determining recipient's desired delivery address from virtual post office box identification and recipient's name;

[verifying]determining in one or more data bases that recipient's name is listed with recipient's desired delivery address and is the address to which the owner of the virtual post office box wants the mail forwarded, wherein the forwarding information may be sent by telephone, physical mail, or facsimile;

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placing recipient's desired delivery address on mail in coded form and human readable form; and

delivering mail to the desired delivery address of the recipients.

2. - through 5. Cancelled.

6. (original) The method claimed in claim 1, further including the step of:  
changing recipient's desired delivery address in accordance with recipient's instructions.

7. (previously presented) The method claimed in claim 6, wherein in the changing step:  
recipient specifies the time period in which mail is going to be delivered to the desired  
delivery address.

8. (previously presented) The method claimed in claim 1, further including the step of:  
billing for the number of times recipient's changed their desired delivery address.

9. (original) The method claimed in claim 1, further including the step of:  
metering the number of times recipient's desired delivery address was  
determined.

10. (original) The method claimed in claim 9, further including the step of:

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billing for the number of times recipient's desired delivery address was determined.

11. (currently amended) The method claimed in claim 1, wherein recipient's virtual post office box is represented in alphanumeric characters.

12. (currently amended) The method claimed in claim 1, further including the steps of:  
assigning access codes to recipients that are related to recipient's virtual post office box;

delivering access codes to recipients;

receiving recipient's name, access code and recipient's intention to change their delivery address;

changing recipient's delivery address upon conformation of recipient's name and access code.

13. (original) The method claimed in claim 12, further including in the changing step, the steps of:

confirming recipient's virtual post office box.

14. (original) The method claimed in claim 12, wherein in the changing step: recipient specifies the time period in which mail is going to be delivered to the changed delivery address.

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15. (previously presented) The method claimed in claim 12, further including in the changing step, the steps of:

assigning a biometrics to recipients;

delivering the biometrics to recipients;

receiving recipient's biometrics and recipient's intention to change their delivery address;

changing recipient's delivery address upon conformation of recipient's biometrics.

16. (currently amended) The method claimed in claim 12, wherein recipient's name, access code and recipient's intention to change their delivery address [may]will be received by telephone.

17. (currently amended) The method claimed in claim 12, wherein recipient's name, access code and recipient's intention to change their delivery address [may]will be received by facsimile.

18. (currently amended) The method claimed in claim 12, wherein recipient's name, access code and recipient's intention to change their delivery address [may]will be received by computer.

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19. (currently amended) The method claimed in claim 12, wherein recipient's name, access code and recipient's intention to change their delivery address [may] will be received in person.

20. (currently amended) The method claimed in claim 12, wherein recipient's name, access code and recipient's intention to change their delivery address [may] will be received by mail.

21. (original) The method claimed in claim 12, wherein recipient's access code is encrypted.

22. (original) The method claimed in claim 1, wherein one of the data bases is the National Name and Address Data Base.